

## REMARKS

Claims 24, 27 to 31 and 35 to 38 currently appear in the application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claim 24 has been amended to include the features of claim 1, claim 27 has been amended to depend from claim 24, and claim 35 has been amended to include the features of claims 9 and 32, without prejudice. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced by the claim amendments and entry of the amended claims is warranted. Please cancel claims 1, 6-9, 11, 18, 21-23, 25, 26, and 32-24.


Claims 24, 27-31 and 35 -38 were objected to by the Examiner for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In response, claim 24 has been amended to include the features of claim 1, and claim 35 has been amended to include the features of claims 9 and 32. Accordingly, claims 24, 27-31, and 35 - 38 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 6-9, 11, 18, 21-23, 25, 26, and 32-34 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over US 4,732,411 to Siegel or alternatively WO99/17218 to Cloninger, in view of US 5,905,652 to Kutsuma and US 5,642,906 to Foote. The rejections to these claims are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1, 6-9, 11, 18, 21-23, 25, 26, and 32-34.

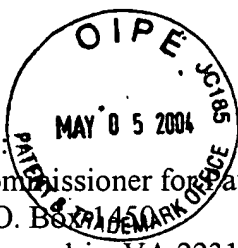
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, early notification of such would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree, a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the eventual allowance of the claims. Please call the undersigned to expedite the allowance of all the claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 5/5/04

  
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The following items listed below are being filed herewith with the USPTO on May 5, 2004

Express Mail No. <b>EV 346 810 921 US</b>		
Attorney Docket No.	Appln. Serial No./ Patent No.	Items - Documents filed on <b>May 5, 2004</b>
42543-3	<b>09/466,282</b>	Amendment and Response

*Please acknowledge receipt of these items as received by returning the enclosed postcards with the date of receipt of May 5, 2004*

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